

TNKIDS_0106 is Coming

What does that mean to you?

The TNKIDS_0106 changes are comprised of three different pieces of functionality; 1) Placements Redesign, 2) Duplicates Social Security Number ECP, and 3) TNKIDS Substance Abuse Data Tracking.

So what does this really mean?

Placements Redesign will provide functionality that supports the Residential Resources and Child Placement needs of DCS. It will eliminate the existing FHACP application and incorporate the existing functionality in FHACP into TNKIDS. An external interface will still be available to outside agencies but all data will reside in TNKIDS. Other enhancements that will be included are:

Residential Resources

- Security and Audit
- Vendor Information
- Vendor Search Capability
- Vendor Contact Person Information
- Increased Placement Location Information
- Accreditation Requirements
- License requirements
- Residential Contracts
- Residential Contract Placement Locations (Payable and Non-payable)
- Residential Rates and funding data

Child Placements

- Resource management functionality
- Resource Home Maintenance
- Placement Authorizations
- Placement De-authorizations
- Placement Type Security Roles
- Placement Change location notification
- Expedited placements
- Pre-Adoptive Home identification
- Adoptive Home Placements
- Temporary Breaks in placements
- Placement exception requests
- Sibling Group Identification
- Issue Resolution Logs

All of the above will also be required to work together to validate payment, show approved placement locations and not allow payments for unapproved placements. All payments to providers will be based on data captured in TNKIDS that is shared with the Financials component of TNKIDS, with the exception DCS Foster Homes. The DCS Foster Home payable process will continue to utilize CHIPFINS, but will use Foster Home Approval data from TNKIDS instead of FHACP.

Substance Abuse Tracking

Will provide the ability to capture data, in both CPS referrals/investigations and Custody intakes indicating whether Methamphetamine was “involved” in reference to those specific areas. This will then provide us the ability to report on this information as required.

Duplicate Social Security Number ECP

Eliminate the ability to enter a duplicate SSN
Validate all SSN’s with the Social Security Administrations data
Validate against existing SSN’s in TNKIDS.

All of these changes will obviously be significant and impact the way you accomplish the day-to-day work required to take care of the kids requiring our services. In an effort to help you prepare for these changes the below “key” dates are provided.

User Acceptance Testing --- January 9th – January 13th
January 16th – January 20th

Training Mid January to Mid February (tentative)

Implementation February 13th – 17th

Go Live February 20th

The Office of Information Systems is excited about providing this functionality and in providing the tools you needs to improve your ability to support the Departments’ clients.

--Michael A. Price, Sr.
Executive Director
Office of Information Systems

Dear Dr. Gatlin

I hear everyone talking about psychological evaluations. How do I know if a child needs a psychological?

Maxine

Psychological evaluations are conducted by a psychologist and involve a variety of psychological tests. The psychologist determines which tests to use depending on the issues and questions concerning the child. Psychological evaluations are time consuming, potentially taking many hours. They are also psychologically invasive for the person being examined through this testing.

Just as only medical clinicians can determine when chest X-rays, CAT scans or blood work is indicated, only clinicians can determine when a psychological evaluation is needed.

Generally psychological evaluations are conducted only when there is an area of clinical perplexity about which the treating clinicians are concerned. Therefore, they would not be routinely indicated in all cases.

A child should be seen for a mental health intake, also often called a mental health assessment or behavioral health assessment. Then, when issues and symptoms are identified, the clinician can determine if a psychological evaluation is needed to develop a treatment plan for the child.

If you have a question about mental health services for Dr. Deborah Gatlin, please email your question to MaryAnn Burkhardt on GroupWise.

--Mary Beth Franklyn

Core Leadership Meeting Minutes

Audrey Corder Presiding

October 18, 2005

Commissioner's Comments:

IST has evaluated the regions 2nd Quarter quarterly reports. The 1st Quarterly reports provided the baseline. The IST group will be looking at systemic factors across the state and share information with CLT.

There has been a positive response in the regions to the QSR. The QSR will be the primary engine to drive quality casework. We have the infrastructure as an agency, but it needs nurturing. There are two major challenges we face as we go forward; one area is a focus on high quality casework in all areas of the agency. The QSR can focus our system improvement. Commissioner encouraged CLT members to become familiar with the QSR. The Commissioner suggested that Lane and Eric do a QSR presentation to the CLT. The second challenge falls in the area of resource homes. We are not making progress in this area, despite the fact that every region has diligent recruitment plans in their implementation plans. We now have incentives in place. Bonnie reported that private providers are also struggling with recruiting foster homes. The regions are doing a better job of removing fewer children and using services for marginal homes to ensure that children are safe.

Bonnie, Tom and Commissioner will be meeting with TAC members on October 20th from 11:30-3:30. The TAC wants a high level review of the P2E Domains. The Commissioner will discuss Domains 1,4, and 6. Tom Riche will discuss Domains 2, 3, and 8. Bonnie Hommrich will discuss Domains 5 and 7. The focus of the meeting will be discussing where we go from here.

Important Milestones:

November 05 will begin Phase II of the Brian A. Settlement. February 06 will be the end of the settlement contempt petition and we will revert to the original consent decree.

It is an important decision-making time and we need to think about how we go forward with the monitoring process. The Settlement Agreement calls for a separate individual monitor and Plaintiffs are interested in our suggestions.

We need to think about submitting a Phase II report to the Plaintiffs in December. Rhonda has asked for 60 days to complete this report.

State COI Domain Leader Meeting:

We have to have a thoughtful analysis-what has worked, what do we need to change, how do we move forward? We have to think what do we need to do to get an A+.

We need to look at the original consent decree and look at the Phase II requirements (these requirements are somewhat different than the P2E requirements). We have to make sure that you understand it. We have a tendency to fall back on doing stuff. This will not help unless it improves outcomes in our report and makes us think about what we have done and how it has resulted in improved services for our children.

IV-Wavier:

VI-E waiver for subsidized guardianship has been approved. No more than 50% of actual recipients can receive subsidy. This will provide DCS with a new opportunity for permanency.

Training Moratorium:

Commissioner stated there is no training for November and December. We cannot take people out of the region and if you go to the region, you will need to get the RAs' permission.

The Commissioner stated that the only way we can leave our legacy is if we leave strong regions. The regions need to be empowered and self-evaluating, therefore we have to begin to turnover more decision-making authority to the RAs. We need to support the RAs so they view Central Office as a support structure serving them and their needs (not vice versa). They still see us in control. Elizabeth stated that RA meetings are not currently set up like a Core Leadership where they meet around the table with the Commissioner, Bonnie, and Judy and bring program people in as needed per their direction, authority and responsibility. The Commissioner stated that we need work more with regional leadership teams to take them to another level.

Level III Issues:

The structural work was done in the last Level III meeting. Brennan has done a lot of work on providing a sense of structure and how to frame this task. We now have the list and four CLT members have three regions each. CLT members that have been assigned three regions include – Bonnie, Randal, Judy, and Steve. The challenge is to work with the regions to develop action plans that the provider has identified that are ready to be released. We also need to explore the quality of non-custodial contracts and to see how they are keeping children out of custody.

Tom Riss stated that a credentialing process has begun with providers since the CSA conversion. He stated that providers have to apply and show evidenced based treatment and outcomes as well as how they will measure these items.

QSR Pilot and Roll out in NW:

Daryl stated a successful QSR pilot was completed in South Central in September. QSR will be done in Southwest next month. The QSR process is collaboration with CPORT and our monitoring team with mentoring from the Child Welfare Policy Group. The reviews are not used as an audit or compliant centered. The old CPORT process is now the TN QSR. Two regions are reviewed per month with a total of 24 cases per region. All 12 regions will be reviewed by May 2006. There will be a joint report with CPORT during the pilot year. As each region finishes the QSR, a small regional report will be completed followed by an overall report.

Review Week:

Monday

Introductions and review case file materials as well as begin the case file review process. Each review team, made up of a leader and shadow, reviews one case during a two-day period.

Tuesday

A complete review of the case including debriefing session with case manager and team leader that includes strengths, opportunities, and prognosis for the next six months.

Hold grand round session discussing each case reviewed.

Wednesday and Thursday

Same as above

Friday

Interactive regional debriefing and planning session with region.

Susan Price is the new director for QSR

Domain I brings to Core: Central Office COI teams

Moved to next CLT meeting

--Eric J. Henderson

MEMORANDUM

Oct. 6, 2005

To: Commissioner Viola Miller

From: Patty Taylor, HCCM

Subject: Detris Willis

I have enclosed another article of a success story. Detris Willis, Carroll County foster child, is a child that others did not have much hope for. I was told that I had three out of four of this sibling group doing well and maybe that was the best I could do. I was also told that maybe I needed to have him transferred to Juvenile Justice, which I opposed. I felt this would only teach him more negative behaviors, and I saw potential in this child.

The decision to place him in Magnolia Academy was not one I took lightly. I prayed, cried and hoped that I was making the right decision. I knew if we did not do something to get his attention that he would be lost forever.

The day we told him that he was being placed at Magnolia I had the police at the office and braced for the explosion. Detris cried and hugged me as he left. I crumbled after he walked out the door. It would have been easier if he had cussed and threw a fit, which I expected. Detris has never been about making things easy for me.

I credit the community that he lives in for helping him develop into the young man he is today. I was never in his hometown that someone did not approach me for asking when he was coming home. The community of Brucetown is a small community that cares for all four of my Willis children. I would let Detris know about the love and support he had at home at every visit. Detris is also blessed with wonderful foster parents, Tosha and Dennis Jordan.

The moral of his story is that we as case managers should never give up on any child. I have seen too many children overcome things no one that they could. The most difficult children are those that need us the most. It is children such as Detris that keep me in this job doing what I do on a daily basis.

I am very proud of this young man because he has come a long way.

--Patty Taylor

Northeast Foster Parent Fall Carnival

The Northeast Region Foster Parent Support & Recruitment Team organized and planned a special day for our DCS foster parents and their children. The event was held on Saturday, September 24, 2005 at Crossroads Christian Church in Gray, TN. The fall carnival consisted of several booths containing games and food. Booths included were: a fall display for family portraits, dart board game, duck pond, putt-putt game, bingo, face painting, fishing game, bracelet making, newspaper hat station, egg on a spoon race, Let's Make A Deal game show, karaoke, and a thank you card table for our sponsors. Food items included: pizza, hotdogs, cotton candy, popcorn, cookies, ice cream, and drinks. There was also a hayride for families to enjoy.

We appreciate the Foster Parent Support & Recruitment Team's joint effort in seeking donations. Foster parent contributions were made by the Washington County Foster Parent Association, the Johnson County Foster Parent Association, Tyler Taylor, foster parent, and Allen & Tammy Idell, foster parents. The following sponsors provided us with food items and door prizes: Dollywood, Walmart, The Mall at Johnson City, Doubletree Hotel, Natural Springs Water Group, Cracker Barrel, Food City, Golden Corral, Pet Dairy, Palace Vending, Action Rentals, Johnson City Coca-Cola, Eastman Credit Union, Pepsi, Fort Henry Mall, Chick-fil-a, Fender's Produce & Greenhouse, David Thompspon's Produce, Farm Direct Greenhouse, and McDonald's.

A special thanks goes to all that worked the event that day! This included: Vicky Pucket, OJT Coach & Volunteer Coordinator, and her parents and her husband; Laura Tipton, Educational Consultant, and her daughter; Erin Parker, Foster Parent Support & Recruitment Team Leader; Michelle Hathaway, Resource Management; Shannon Wood, HCCM; Shanna Livingston, HCCM; Robin Goudrealt, HCCM, and her daughters; Nancy Helsabeck, Team Coordinator; Amy Massey, HCCM, and her husband; Barry McGlothlin, JJCM; Rebecca McGlothlin, HCCM; Laura Pepper-Weiler, Foster Parent Support & Recruitment CM3; Becky Quillen, Resource Management; Christina Butler, Foster Parent Support & Recruitment CM, and her parents and

uncle; Sheila Woods, Foster Parent Support & Recruitment CM; Stephanie Richardson, Foster Parent Support & Recruitment CM; Sherri Hale, Regional Administrator, and her daughter; Kristin McKee-Ayers, Foster Parent Support & Recruitment CM; Debbie Caffey, Foster Parent Support & Recruitment CM; Lora Anderson, Adoption Unit Team Leader; Vanessa Addington, Foster Parent Support & Recruitment CM; and Christi Vaughn, Foster Parent Support & Recruitment CM.

There was a lot of hard work and even sweat that went into the manual labor during the collection of supplies and set-up the day before the event. Believe us it was a HOT day! Thank you's to: Christina Butler, Vanessa Addington, Christi Vaughn, Stephanie Richardson, Erin Parker, and Sheila Woods.

Several hours were spent organizing this event. Many comments were made by our foster parents on how much they enjoyed and appreciated the event. Over 150 persons were in attendance. A fun time was had by all!

--Christi Vaughn